

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action of August 24, 2006, the Examiner rejected claim 1, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamada '327 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,442,327) in view of Yoshiro '042 (JP 2002/093042) and Keller '403 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,587,403).

The Examiner also indicated that the remaining claims, that is, claims 3, 5-8, 10-14, 16, and 19-20 are allowed.

By this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claim 1, without prejudice or disclaimer. As such, the rejection of claim 1 has been rendered moot.

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate passage to issue of all pending claims.

Applicant's Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number **03-3975**. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP
SHAW PITTMAN LLP



E. Rico Hernandez
Reg. No. **47641**
Tel. No. 703.770.7788
Fax No. 703.770.7901

Date: November 10, 2006
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900